

only from the effects of senility. If such blunders are possible under a State examination which requires a knowledge of psychiatry, how much worse will things become when such knowledge is no longer required as a preliminary to a license to practise? No doubt in time, if this "practical" spirit spreads, the "politician expert" will make his appearance in Germany, and he will be of even a meaner type than the American, for public opinion will be without effect on one made an expert for family reasons. This procedure of the German authorities is a decidedly retrograde movement, which cannot but have baneful results, and it seriously reflects on the German alienists that such a procedure should have been proposed.

NATIVISM IN SCIENCE.

It is to be regretted that there should creep into German scientific literature a nativistic tone which far exceeds any thing of the same kind with which Germans are so fond of charging the French. This nativistic tone is to be noticed especially in the criticisms on American contributions to medical science. In a report on Guiteau's brain, the editor of this journal called attention to certain artefacts. Dr. Pick, adopting the patronizing German nativistic tone, declared that such artefacts were long known to the Germans. It is a fact, easily demonstrated by a reference to the literature, that an American observer in this journal first called attention to the influence of alcohol in producing these artefacts, and it can also be shown that German authors, notably Schüle, for years after the appearance of this American contribution, were delineating and describing these alcoholic artefacts as pathological lesions, without producing a single deprecatory comment from their German alienistic confrères. It certainly is not a healthy sign, from a scientific point of view, to find this nativism so prominent in German medical literature. Even if the case were as stated by Pick, that is no reason for making the question a national one. Certain recent cases reported by Guntz show that there are German physicians as venal and incapable of giving true expert

testimony as even medical politicians in the United States ; but it would be unjust to charge the German medical profession as a whole with venality and incapacity. The sooner the German alienists abandon this tone of patronizing criticism, the more dignified will their position become. There is a somewhat trite old proverb which is perfectly applicable to the present case : " Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones."

MISTAKEN ECONOMY IN THE TREATMENT OF THE INSANE.

IT is a matter of common observation that when hospitals for the insane are run on the " poor-house " plan, the patients suffer as the paupers, described in " Oliver Twist," did under the dietary prescribed by the " board." The English justices of the peace and their counterparts in America—the county and other local charity commissioners of the various States,—as a general rule, seem actuated by the most narrow ideas of economy, and, as a result, the condition of the insane in the county almshouses of many of the States is disgraceful to humanity. In Massachusetts, for example, long ere the era of Butler, the insane in the almshouses were starving and freezing in filthy dens, while millions were being spent on the palatial institution at Danvers. For a long time the hospital for the insane in the county in which Chicago is situated was run on a similar plan, and the patients were treated by *salaried* non-graduates in medicine appointed for purely political reasons. At last the profession of the city, stimulated by the movement of the New York Neurological Society, attempted the reform of these institutions, and as a result an able and conscientious superintendent was appointed, who reduced restraint, increased the privileges of the patients against ignorant, stupid, and venal opposition from his political superiors. Through his efforts provision was at length made for the utilization of the clinical facilities of the institution, and a special pathologist, Dr. S. V. Clevenger, was appointed. After years of incessant labor this superintendent, Dr. J. C. Spray, has succeeded in putting the institution on the proper basis as an *hospital* for the insane, and now it is proposed